



**Frederick County
Government
Frederick, Maryland**

News Release

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COMMISSIONERS MAKE PROGRESS IMPROVING BUSINESS CLIMATE IN FREDERICK COUNTY

FREDERICK, MD – Two months ago, the Frederick Board of County Commissioners initiated a review of over 200 recommended changes to rules and regulations as part of their goal to improve the “business friendly” atmosphere in Frederick County. According to Director Eric Soter of the Community Development Division, 26 items have been completed and 56 items are on their way toward completion.

The changes are the start of a process to consider proposals to reduce, alter or eliminate rules and regulations to help improve county processes. Areas addressed include the application and approval process, Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, Forest Resource Ordinance, permits, site plans, subdivisions, stormwater management, zoning, water and sewer, and many other general regulations and requirements.

“The commissioners want to inform the media and our citizens that we’re very pleased with the hard work and dedication of our staff and the progress they have already achieved in addressing these important areas identified by the business community. In spite of reduced staffing levels, our employees are doing more with less and working diligently to help businesses more easily and efficiently navigate their way through the process. We welcome continued feedback from our citizens -- from the homeowner to the large business to the small business -- and we once again affirm that one of our key goals is to improve the business climate in our county,” commented Board President Blaine Young.

Progress cited by Mr. Soter includes the recent initialization of a review of the county’s [Forest Resource Ordinance](#) and the Water and Sewerage Plan, as well as the fact that a dozen zoning text related issues are currently moving through the public hearing process.

(more)

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The items on the “[business friendly action items](#)” list were proposed after meetings with officials from the former Permitting and Development Review and Economic Development Divisions and members of the Frederick Chamber of Commerce, Frederick County Builders Association, commercial business representatives and many other stakeholders.

The changes coincide with the Board of County Commissioners’ proposed [Strategic Plan](#) goal of providing improved predictability for businesses. The goal states that “Frederick County needs to implement predictability in the business community in order to reduce inefficiencies, allow cost control, provide an effective process and increase understanding in daily business processes within Frederick County Government.”

For further information, contact Mr. Soter at 301-600-1153 or via e-mail at esoter@FrederickCountyMD.gov or Director Gary Hessong, Permits and Inspections Department, at 301-600-1172 or via e-mail at ghessong@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

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